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Egyptian Editor Held on C.I.A. Spy Charge

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Cairo
The semi-official Middle East News Agency said here that Mustafa Amin, editor of the newspaper *Al Akhbar*, has been arrested while passing political and military information to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Al Akhbar is one of the United Arab Republic's leading newspapers and Mr. Amin is one of the country's leading editors. He was arrested in Alexandria while lunching with Bruce Odell, a political officer at the American Embassy here.

Egyptian sources said that Mr. Amin had made a full confession of working for the C.I.A. and had implicated his brother Aly. Aly Amin is the London correspondent of another Cairo newspaper.

According to reports, Mustafa admitted in his confession that he split money received for intelligence work on a 50-50 basis with his brother and that money was transferred to London.

First signs that Mustafa was in trouble came some two weeks ago. The words "Founded by Mustafa and Aly Amin," were dropped from the masthead of *Al Akhbar*.

Mustafa has been described as "an editor in the classic Western style: a hulking six-foot 200 pounder, inveterate cigarette smoker, hard driver of his staff, skilled and sure in his ability to spot the stories which build circulation."

Quarter-Million Circulation

Under his direction *Al Akhbar* grew to be one of the most successful newspapers in the Middle East. It became the first paper in the Arab world to reach a quarter-million circulation.

Mustafa and Aly Amin — known here as "The Twins" — have been in trouble before, both having been previously jailed. But officials here think that this is the end of the line for them.

With Mustafa's arrest the paper was taken over by Khaled Mohieddin who is now chairman of the board.

Observers here note that it is interesting how the Amins have managed to produce a stylish, spicy newspaper which, although following the government line, still managed to peck at those in power.

Surprising, too, is the fact that it was well known that Mustafa, despite editorials which frequently criticized the West, held view which favored sympathy with Western liberalism, free enterprise and a free press.